

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Cllr Sam Gibbs

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**Organisation Name:** (Councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Harrogate area

Views on attached file

## Attached Documents:

- submission-to-the-lgbce---cllr-sam-gibbs.docx

## **Submission to the LGBCE (North Yorkshire) - Cllr Sam Gibbs**

As a North Yorkshire Councillor and former Harrogate Borough Councillor, I wish to make the following comments in relation to the proposals in the Harrogate area as outlined in the revised proposals:

### **Pannal & Washburn**

I fully support the proposals outlined for the Pannal & Washburn division. This brings communities together that have similar identities. These communities are commuter villages at the southern end of the former Harrogate district that look towards, Leeds, Bradford, Otley and other parts of West Yorkshire. This is highlighted by the number of people who travel to work or school over the West Yorkshire border using the busy A61, the popular Number 36 bus or the Harrogate-Leeds train line that runs through the heart of this division with station at both Pannal and Weeton.

Previous draft proposals had but Washburn with villages up Wharfedale. This was not a good fit as the Washburn Valley is not a 'Dales' community.

### **Lower Nidderdale**

I fully support the plans for a new Lower Nidderdale division. This separates 'lower Dales' communities from 'Upper Dales' communities which have differing characteristics. These lower Nidderdale villages strongly identify with Harrogate and whilst still rural are often Harrogate commuter villages.

### **Upper Wharfedale and Upper Nidderdale**

I strongly support the creation of this division. It brings together two very similar communities that have similar characteristics and similar issues and have good transport links along the B6265. These heavily rural communities do not look down the Dale to urban settlements such as Harrogate in the way the Lower Nidderdale villages do. You can see from the 'Upper Dales' division in Richmondshire how successful such divisions can be.

### **Killinghall and Scotton**

I can support this division despite having a few reservations. This division combines three different communities: Rural areas that look to Harrogate, rural areas that look to Knaresborough and parts of urban Knaresborough. This is sub-optimal, although an improvement on the original draft proposals. The separation of Killinghall from Hampsthwaite is also not ideal, though necessary to make the numbers work.

I accept that to achieve a satisfactory amount of electoral equality across all divisions it is not possible to achieve a perfect outcome.